



Montana SMART Schools
SMART Green Schools Challenge Ideas
Saving **M**oney and **R**esources **T**oday in Montana's Schools

Are you interested in ideas to promote health and increase student performance in your school? It doesn't take much to promote the overall health of students and all building occupants within schools. Here are some ideas for SMART Green Schools Challenge Projects:

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| ✓ | Walk or bike to school when the weather allows |
| ✓ | Carpool with other students |
| ✓ | Have your school install and maintain bicycle racks |
| ✓ | Implement a "no idle" zone for school busses and cars near school facilities |
| ✓ | Post reminders in bathrooms to remind students and occupants to reduce water use |
| ✓ | Capture rainwater and reuse on indoor plants |
| ✓ | Allow students to use clear, reusable water bottles instead of plastic water bottles |
| ✓ | Implement a green cleaning policy by replacing current cleaning products with green or non-toxic products |
| ✓ | Revamp your policy for storing and disposing of cleaning chemicals |
| ✓ | Implement a hand washing or sanitizing curriculum for students |
| ✓ | Promote health and safety both in and outside of the school building |
| ✓ | Upgrade or replace old or unsafe playground equipment |
| ✓ | Implement a healthy eating habits curriculum in the classroom |
| ✓ | Replace unhealthy vending machine foods with healthier choices |
| ✓ | Start a tree planting program |
| ✓ | Plant and maintain a school/community garden |



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| ✓ | Protect natural habitats, open fields and wooded areas |
| ✓ | Use effective ice and snow melt that is not harmful to the environment |
| ✓ | Require sustainable purchasing for construction materials and improvements (local, recycled content, rapidly renewable) |
| ✓ | Require air filters and other indoor air quality management practices in school |
| ✓ | Allow students to start an environmental club |
| ✓ | Have a Health Team of student monitors in charge of brainstorming ideas for implementing healthy practices within your school |
| ✓ | Plan and organize informative field trips for students to see how health practices or renewable energy works in action |
| ✓ | Brainstorm ideas to increase students' access to natural lighting |
| ✓ | Implement a policy aimed at increasing student comfort level through adequate thermal control |
| ✓ | Encourage cleaning, painting or other chemical-oriented projects to be done outside school hours or when students and other building occupants are not around |
| ✓ | Promote better acoustics within the classroom |